

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03165 251156Z
ACTION SS-25

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O R 251058Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1079
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T KUWAIT 3165

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, UNSC, LE, IS, KU
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE IN SUPPORT OF UNIFIL

REF: (A) STATE 126253 (B) KUWAIT 2820

SUMMARY: GOK BELIEVES ARAFAZ IS PRESENTLY DETERMINED TO
AVOID CLASHES WITH UNIFIL, AND SEES RESPONSIBLE PLO BEHAVIOR
IN THIS RESPECT AS IMPORTANT TO LONG TERM INTERESTS. GOK
ALSO, HOWEVER, IS WORRIED THAT ARAFAT MAY LACK THE DEGREE
OF CONTROL OVER PLO AND OTHER ELEMENTS IN LEBANON SUFFICIENT
TO PREVENT INCIDENTS. THERE IS REPORT THAT ESTABLISHED
PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY IN KUWAIT HAS ALSO WEIGHED IN WITH
ARAFAT TO DO ALL HE CAN TO KEEP THE PEACE IN SOUTH LEBANON.
END SUMMARY.

1. I CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS, REF A, MAY 25 AT "HIGHEST
PRACTICAL LEVEL" OF MFA, DEPUTY HEAD OF ARAB AFFAIRS

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SECTION, POLITICAL DEPARTMENT. IBRAHIM MOUSSA.

2. I REMINDED MOUSSA OF AMBASSADOR MAESTRONE'S MAY 10
CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER (REF B) AND ASKED
WHETHER FONMIN'S SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS WITH YASSER ARAFAT HAD
GIVEN INDICATIONS OF PLO ATTITUDE TOWARD UNIFIL. MOUSSA
DISCLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF SPECIFICS OF THOSE MEETINGS BUT

SAID KUWAUTI POSITION IS ONE OF FULL SUPPORT FOR UNIFIL AND THAT GOK BELIEVES ARAFAT SEES THE AVOIDANCE OF CONFLICT WITH UNIFIL AS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PLO.

3. I POINTED TO SCHEDULED WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM SOUTH LEBANON AND SAID WE CONSIDER IT MOST IMPORTANT THAT PALESTINIANS AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH UNIFIL TO HELP ENSURE THAT WITHDRAWAL. I ADDED THAT FAILURE TO PRESERVE CREDIBILITY OF UNIFIL PEACEKEEPING MISSION, AND THE WILLINGNESS OF UN MEMBER STATES TO CONTRIBUTE TROOPS TO SUCH MISSIONS, COULD WELL DESTROY CHANCES FOR RESOLUTION OF CRISES IN OTHER CRITICAL PARTS OF THE WORLD. STATES AND PEOPLES WHO HAVE BEEN FAVORABLY INCLINED TOWARD PLO MIGHT WELL CHANGE THEIR VIEW IF PLO WERE SEEN TO FAIL TO COOPERATE TO UTMOST WITH UNIFIL IN LEBANON. THIS WAS A MESSAGE WE HOPED THAT KUWAITIS WOULD NEVER MISS A CHANGE TO EMPHASIZE WITH THEIR FATAH AND PLO FRIENDS.

4. MOUSSA EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF AND APPRECIATION FOR ROLE USG HAD PLAYED IN OBTAINING FIRM DATE FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, WHICH HE AGREED WAS VITAL FIRST STEP IN PROCESS OF FINDING SOLUTION FOR TERRIBLY DIFFICULT LEBANESE PROBLEM. HE ACCEPTED VALIDITY OF LINE OF ARGUMENT I HAD TAKEN, MENTIONING KUWAIT'S RESPONSIBILITY AS MEMBER OF SECURITY COUNCIL, AND HE ASSURED ME THAT GOK LEADERS WOULD INDEED TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO COUNSEL PLO RESTRAINT AND THE
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ADVANTAGES TO PLO OF AVOIDING UNDERMINING UNIFIL. HE CAUTIONED THAT KUWAIT COULD NOT DICTATE TO ARAFAT BUT INDICATED THAT KUWAITIS NEVER HESITATE TO ADVISE HIM AND HIS CLOSE COLLEAGUES/ HE ALSO, HOWEVER, MENTIONED REPORTS IN LOCAL PRESS MAY 25 THAT FIVE PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS HAVE DEMANDED THAT ARAFAT BE REPLACED AS PLO HEAD. THERE CLEARLY WERE PEOPLE IN LEBANON BEYOND ARAFAT'S CONTROL WHO MIGHT MAKE TROUBLE FOR THE UN FORCES.

5. CONFIRMING THRUST OF MOUSSA'S REMARKS, FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAYS THAT MFA UNDERSECRETARY RASHID AL-RASHID TOLD HIM TWO DAYS AGO THAT ARAFAT IS DETERMINED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO AVOID CLASHES WITH UNIFIL. LIKE MOUSSA, RASHID HAD GONE ON TO SAY THAT THERE ARE CERTAINLY GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS IN LEBANON EQUALLY DETERMINED TO CREATE CHAOS.

6. IN SOCIAL CONVERSATION MAY 23, WELL-PLACED ADVISOR TO AMIRI DIWAN TOLD ME IN CONFIDENCE THAT DURING ARAFAT'S VISIT HERE AN (UNNAMED) KEY LEADER OF THE RESIDENT PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY HAD PRESSED UPON ARAFAT THE IMPORTANCE THAT COMMUNITY ATTACHES TO THE PLO'S ACTING RESPONSIBLY IN SOUTH LEBANON, AND TASKED ARAFAT WITH NOT YET HAVING DONE

ENOUGH IN THIS RESPECT.
SUTHERLAND

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NNN

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